VIDEO TRAINING RECORD VIDEO TITLE Nuts and Bolts of Playground Maintenance VIDEO ID NUMBER PARKS003

KEY TEACHING POINTS OF THE VIDEO

PLAYGROUND SAFETY CONCEPTS

This Video is designed to provide an overview of the importance of proper maintenance. Of the 200,000 children injured each year, more than 30% of the accidents are caused by poor or inadequate maintenance.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A GOOD PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM?

Good maintenance is a proactive, not reactive. It is important to use the manufacturer's instructions to perform maintenance tasks. Next, it is systematic and on-going, not just performed at the beginning of school or during heavy use periods. It is done regularly. Further, maintenance is performed by designated staff who are specifically trained in playground maintenance. Lastly, maintenance is documented. A file is created to keep records of all maintenance procedures performed.

SPECIFIC CONCERNS ABOUT MAINTENANCE

There are several areas of concern noted by the CPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety that need attention in order to provide maintenance of safe equipment. It is important to prevent entrapment on playground equipment. Check to prevent spaces that are from 3½" - 9". Prevent entanglement possibilities such as spaces or gaps at the top of slides. Be sure that there are no exposure problems such as loose surfacing or debris and the equipment is free of rust, splinters and cracks. Be sure that there are no protrusions such as bolts. Lastly, prevent any situations that might cause children to pinch, crush or shear body parts.

MAINTENANCE CONCERNS FOR SPECIFIC PIECES OF EQUIPMENT

CLIMBERS

Check to see that protective caps cover nuts and bolts on climbers. Be sure that protrusions do not exist on climbers. Gaps that exist must be less than 3½" or greater than 9" in order to prevent the possibility of head entanglement. V-shaped areas must be greater than 55 degrees in order to prevent the possibility of entanglement. Use zones under climbers must be maintained with the proper kind of depth of surfacing materials to prevent the likelihood of serious injuries from falls.

SLIDES

Check for loose bolts. Be sure that there are no open spaces between the slide bed and the edge of the slide where clothing and fingers can get caught. Be sure that there are no gaps between the platform and the slide bed where clothing can get caught.

SWINGS

Check for worn chains. Look for open s-hooks. Be concerned about improperly installed hangers and swings that are improperly positioned. Fro example, there should only be two swings per bay. There should be no animal swings on public playgrounds. Deteriorating swing seats should be replaced. In addition, debris on the surfacing should be removed. There should be proper surfacing in the use zone for swings.

MAINTENANCE OF THE SURFACING

It is critical that surfaces be maintained. A regular maintenance program should be established in order to keep the depth of the surface adequate to absorb a fall. Both adults and children can participate in maintenance. Areas under and around swings, climbers and slides should be raked and refilled on a daily basis. If the surface has puddles or ice, the use of the equipment should be curtailed until conditions are made safe again.

QUESTION		ANSWERS	
		TRUE	FALSE
1 Check slides for loose bolts.			
2 Both adults and children can participate in maintenance.			
3 Gaps in climbers that exist must be less than 3½" or greater than 9" in order to prevent the possibility of head entanglement.			
4 There are several areas of concern noted by the CPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety that need attention in order to provide maintenance of safe equipment.			
5 Good maintenance is a proactive, not reactive.			
EMPLOYEE'S NAME	EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE	DATE	
INSTRUCTOR'S NAME	INSTRUCTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE	